

Message Text

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PAGE 01 QUEBEC 00175 240241Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-20
TRSE-00 OMB-01 /078 W
-----095141 240246Z /73

P 232230Z MAY 78
FM AMCONSUL QUEBEC
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1350
INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA PRIORITY
AMCONSUL MONTREAL PRIORITY

UNCLAS QUEBEC 175

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, CA
SUBJECT: RYAN TELLS PRESS HE WILL NOT RUN BEFORE 1979

1. IN A WEEKEND INTERVIEW TIH MONTREAL GAZETTE, CLAUDE RYAN REVEALED THAT HE HAD NO INTENTION OF PRESENTING HIMSELF AS A LIBERAL PARTY CANDIDATE "IN ANY RIDING BEFORE 1979," AND ADDED THAT HE "PERSONALLY WOULD NOT CONSIDER IT A TRAGEDY IF I WERE TO STAY OUT OF THE ASSEMBLY UNTIL THE NEXT (PROVINCIAL) ELECTION."

2. RYAN ALSO STATED THAT THE CURRENT POPULAR HIGH DEGREE OF POPULAR APPROVAL OF THE PARTI QUEBECOIS GOVERNMENT'S STAND ON THE SALES TAX ISSUE . HE CLAIMED THIS ISSUE HAD ARRESTED THE PQ'S DECLINE IN POPULARITY IN RECENT MONTHS. RYAN REITERATED HIS PARTY'S POSITION SUPPORTING THE GOVERNMENT'S STAND, NOTING THAT THE GOVERNMENT WAS ACTING ENTIRELY WITHIN ITS RIGHTS IN REFUSING TO NEGOTIATE CONDITIONS "IMPOSED BY THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT," THAT THE DOLS 85 TAX REBATE PLAN ANNOUNCED BY OTTAWA LAST WEEK WAS NOT ACCEPTABLE, AND THAT THE SOLUTION LAY INSTEAD IN NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO GOVERNMENTS.

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3. RYAN SAID THAT THE PROVINCIAL LIBERAL PARTY WAS NOT TO BE CONSIDERED SIMPLY THE "QUEBEC WING OF THE FEDERAL LIBERALS" (THIS IN REFERENCE TO JIBES RENE LEVESQUE HAS BEEN THROWING A T HIM FOR THE LAST TWO WEEKS) AND THAT HE HAD MADE THIS CLEAR TO TRUDEAU.

4. ON THE SUBJECT OF THE REFERENDUM QUESTION, RYAN

ACCUSED LEVESQUE OF TELLING MORE TO NBC-TV IN THE US THAN
TO THE PEOPLE OF QUEBEC. LEVESQUE HAD STATED ON THE
"TODAY" SHOW IN NEW YORK LAST WEEK THAT THE REFERENDUM
QUESTION WOULD PROBABLY BE POSED IN TWO PARTS: "ARE
YOU IN FAVOR OF SELF-GOVERNMENT FOR QUEBEC, AND, ARE
YOU IN FAVOR OF A NEW ECONOMIC ASSOCIATION WITH THE REST
OF CANADA?" RYAN FOUND THIS APPROACH "TREMENDOUSLY CONFUSING"
AND SAID THAT ANY TWO-PART QUESTION SHOULD BE PUT TOGETHER IN
SUCH A WAY THAT ONE COULD VOTE EITHER YES OR NO TO BOTH PARTS.
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